Feb 3 1959

Speidel Special

General Hans Speidel, Commander of NATO Land Forces, Central European Sector, inspects future British officers. For full details of checkered career of West German General Speidel, see inside.

DEMOCRATIC
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FROM SMALL-TIME NAZI SPY TO FOUR-STAR NATO BOSS

The Story of Dr. Hans Speidel

This number of GERMAN REPORT is exclusively devoted to the story of General Doctor Hans Speidel, one-time top nazi officer who is today Commander of NATO Land Forces, Central European Sector. The text and the pictures on this and the following pages are reproduced by kind permission from a gripping documentary film entitled "Operation Teutonic Sword" directed by Annelie and Andrew Thorndike, and produced by DEFA, the East German nationally-owned film company. The commentary was written by Guenther Ruecker. Space has not permitted the reproduction of all the documents and historic pictures referred to in the text.

1. Operation "Teutonic Sword"

In September 1934 Hitler's military secret service ordered a political double murder under the cover-name "Operation Teutonic Sword".

The victims of this murder were Louis Barthou, Foreign Minister of France, and King Alexander the First of Yugoslavia.

When the King of Yugoslavia was carried to his grave on October 18th 1934, one of the mourners who strode behind the coffin had in his safe the names of the men who had organised the murder: this mourner was Hermann Goering.

(The next section of the film, illustrated with many contemporary newsreel shots, demonstrates how Hitler at that time was not yet ready for aggressive war. French Foreign Minister Barthou travelled through Europe in an endeavour to form a Little Entente with Poland, Rumania, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia, to protect Germany's neighbours from the potential menace of aggressive nazism. Barthou knew that the attitude of Yugoslavia was particularly important, and invited King Alexander to visit France in October 1934.)

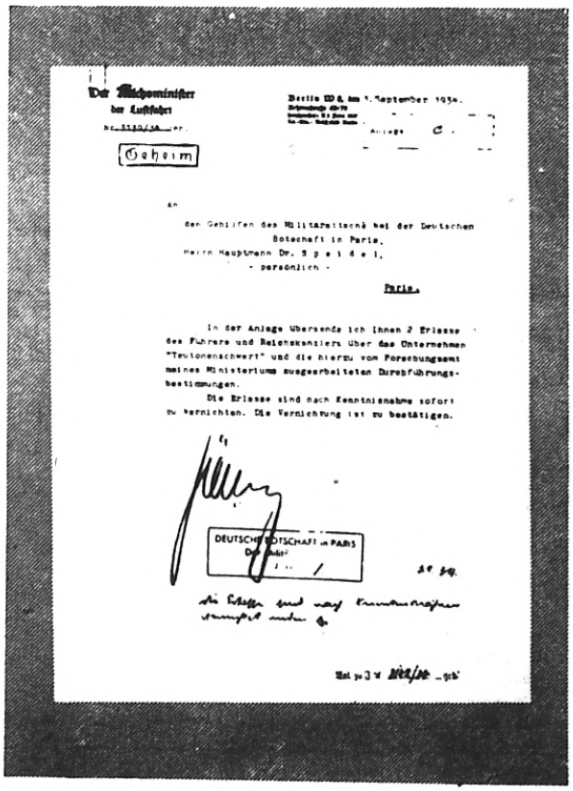
Neither King Alexander nor Barthou knew that their deaths had been decided upon in summer 1934.

But Goering, at that time second man in the nazi state after Hitler, knew it. He dictated a top secret letter. Here is this document:

"From the Reichs Minister of Aviation
Berlin W 8, September 1st 1934.
To Captain Doctor Speidel, Assistant of the Military Attache, German Embassy in Paris.
Attached I send you two edicts of the Fuehrer on 'Operation Teutonic Sword' and the relevant instructions worked out by the Research Department of my ministry. The edicts must be destroyed immediately after being noted. Destruction must be confirmed.

Goering."

(A photostat of the original letter is reproduced below.)


Der Reichsminister der Luftfahrt

Berlin W 8, den 1. September 1934.

Geheim

An

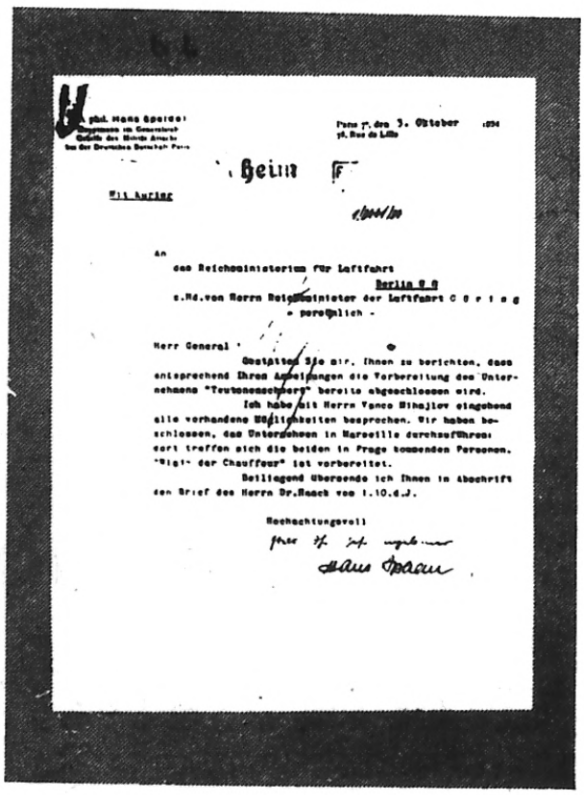
den Gehilfen des Militärattaché bei der Deutschen Botschaft in Paris,
Herrn Hauptmann Dr. S p e i d e l,
- persönlich -

Paris.

In der Anlage übersende ich Ihnen 2 Erlasse des Führers und Reichskanzlers über das Unternehmen "Teutonenschwert" und die hierzu von Forschungsamt meines Ministeriums ausgearbeiteten Durchführungsbestimmungen.

Die Erlasse sind nach Kenntnisnahme sofort zu vernichten. Die Vernichtung ist zu bestätigen.

DEUTSCHE BOTSCHAFT in PARIS


Geheim

Mit Kurier

An

das Reichsministerium für Luftfahrt
Berlin W 8

z.Hd.von Herrn Reichsminister der Luftfahrt G o e r i n g
- persönlich -

Herr General !

Gestatten Sie mir, Ihnen zu berichten, dass entsprechend Ihren Anweisungen die Vorbereitung des Unternehmens "Teutonenschwert" bereits abgeschlossen wird.

Ich habe mit Herrn Yanco Mihajlov eingehend alle vorhandene Möglichkeiten besprochen. Wir haben beschlossen, das Unternehmen in Marseille durchzuführen: dort treffen sich die beiden in Frage kommenden Personen. "Vigi" der Chauffeur ist vorbereitet.

Beiliegend übersende ich Ihnen in Abschrift den Brief des Herrn Dr.Rasch vom 1.10.d.J.

Hochachtungsvoll

Two vital letters from Goering's secret files. For translation see above and next page.

Here you see a picture of the Assistant of the Military Attache in Paris, Captain Doctor Hans Speidel. No, you are not mistaken. This is the same man who today is NATO General Speidel, the commander of the NATO land forces on the European Central Sector: the man who commands the rocket launching pads and atom cannon from Denmark down to Switzerland: the man who is West German Chancellor Adenauer's right hand in all military questions.

When Captain Speidel received Goering's letter he did his work precisely and correctly as usual. On October 3rd 1934 he sent the following reply to Goering, top secret, by special messenger:

"Dear General,

Permit me to report that the preparations for Operation Teutonic Sword have been completed in accordance with your instructions.

I have discussed thoroughly with Mr Vanco Mihajlov all possibilities which present themselves. We have decided to carry out the operation in Marseilles: the two persons concerned will meet there. 'Vlado the Chauffeur' has been instructed.

Attached please find a copy of the letter from Dr Haack dated October 1st this year.

I beg to remain, etc,

Hans Speidel."

(A photostat of the original letter is reproduced on the opposite page.)

This Doctor Haack, Speidel's accomplice, had made the following report to Speidel on October 1st:

Captain Speidel, Assistant Nazi Military Attache, in Paris in 1934

"Dear Speidel,

At your request I have the following to report: The official ceremonies in connection with the state visit will be held in Paris. Barthou will travel to Marseilles for the welcome ceremony . . . The Sureté Nationale is charged with maintaining order and security in Marseilles . . . Alexander and Barthou will drive in an open car from the Vieux Port to the Prefecture . . . The army will not be used for security purposes . . . The originally planned motorcycle escort will not be used.

Yours,

Hans Haack.

** (The film then shows the original news reel shots of the murder of King Alexander and Louis Barthou in their car in the streets of Marseilles.)*

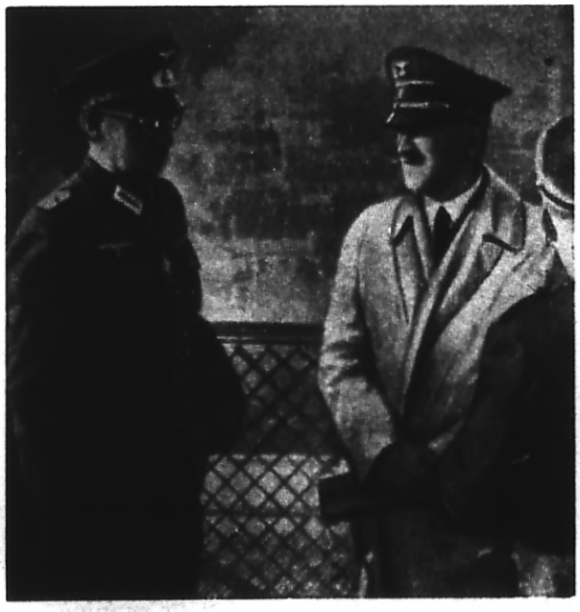
Now remember what Speidel had written to Goering: "We have decided to carry out the operation in Marseilles".

That is how Speidel carried out Operation Teutonic Sword in 1934. As a result he became one of the most valuable men in the espionage service of Hitler's Wehrmacht, which was headed by Admiral Canaris. Canaris would have a lot to tell about Speidel's work as an agent. He knew Speidel well.

2. *Working for Spy Chief Canaris*

But Canaris is dead. A picture still exists which shows from left to right Himmler, Goebbels and Canaris. All three are dead, but the officer on the right of the picture is still alive. At that time he was chief of Department Three, counter-espionage, under Admiral Canaris. His name was General Bamler.

During the war, General Bamler joined the Free German National Committee which had been established in the Soviet Union, and which called on German soldiers and



1940: Speidel with Hitler

1957: Speidel with Adenauer

A 1958 picture of ex-General Bamler working on his sworn deposition about Speidel's past

officers to end Hitler's criminal war. General Bamler himself drafted an important anti-Hitler appeal signed by fifty generals.

In February 1958, General Bamler made a sworn deposition on his personal knowledge of Speidel, and our cameraman was there to record it. Here is General Bamler's deposition:

"I herewith depose on oath the following: From 1934 to 1938 I was chief of the Counter-Espionage Section of the Wehrmacht High Command under Canaris. I relinquished the post at my own request.

"I know Speidel from this period. Under Canaris we had, nearly every day, a 'column', that is to say the chiefs of the various departments of the Secret Service — the espionage department, the sabotage department, the passive counter-espionage, and the foreign department — all came together in order to discuss the previous day, or to settle basic problems of our work.

"At one such 'column' — as far as I can remember at the end of 1934 or the beginning of 1935 — the representative of the espionage department, Major Grimmeiss, asked Admiral Canaris if it were not possible to exclude Captain Speidel, assistant to the German Military Attache in Paris, from the gentleman's agreement ruling at that time that Military Attaches should not be employed on active espionage work.

"In other words, Major Grimmeiss asked Admiral Canaris for permission to use Captain Speidel in the active espionage service.

"Canaris asked: 'Why particularly Speidel?' and received roughly this reply: 'We have naturally been working with him on the quiet, and he has been so extremely successful that we should now like to have your official permission, Admiral'.

"Canaris thought for a moment, and then said something like this: 'You know what trouble I am always having with Ribbentrop. But if you attach such value to Speidel, then keep him in your apparatus for all I care'.

"Speidel fully justified the confidence put in him by the secret service. In summer 1939, when it had long become the practice to use all military attaches in the espionage service, Speidel was named as Military Attache with Franco in Madrid.

"From my knowledge of the entire workings of the German military secret service I can state that Speidel was thus selected for a key post in the German Secret Service. By 1939 at the latest the most important espionage connections of the German counter-espionage service to France, Britain and North Africa ran through Madrid."

But Canaris had to send another attache to man his espionage centre in Madrid, for Hitler needed Speidel, his French expert, for work in Paris.

(The film then shows news-reel shots of nazi troops marching in to occupied Paris in 1940.)

The nazi war machine dominated the city. The conquerers hoisted the swastika banner on the Eiffel Tower. France learned by bitter experience what happens if you turn a blind eye when German militarism springs to arms.

3. Hitler's Pro-Consul in Paris

French generals were brought to the Hotel Crillon to receive orders from the German Armistice Commission. The text of the Armistice Agreement was drafted by one of Hitler's experts on France. It is no surprise to learn that this was Speidel.

Hitler's military government took over control in France, and Doctor Hans Speidel's 600 days in Paris began.

1942: Nazi General Speidel works on decrees for the running of occupied France

For the first time, Speidel moved into Fontainebleau. Here he worked out the orders and decrees by which occupied France was governed.

An original document from this period has survived the war. It is a report drafted by Speidel for Marshal Keitel, Commander in Chief of the Wehrmacht.

Here is the document, dated February 28th 1942 and signed by Speidel. It takes the form of a secret report on "Public Opinion and Security".

On page 4 of this document, Speidel reported:

"The following retaliatory measures were ordered in the period under review:

"On February 3rd 1942 six Communists and Jews were shot in retaliation for various ambushes and bomb attacks in Paris.

"In retaliation for an attack on a member of the Wehrmacht in Elboeuf (District A) on February 14th 1942, ten Communists and Jews were shot on February 21st.

"In retaliation for an attack on a member of the Wehrmacht in Rouen (District A) on February 4th 1942, twenty-five Communists and Jews were shot on February 21st.

"In retaliation for an attack on a member of the Wehrmacht in Tours (District B) on February 5th 1942, fifteen Communists and Jews were shot on February 21st."

And so it goes on, for page after page. The report continues:

"In connection with the measures outlined in paragraphs b) to d) above, orders were given for the transfer to German detention of 1000 Communists and Jews ... These have been made ready for deportation to the East."

(The film then shows nazi newsreel shots of round-ups of civilians in occupied France, pictures of concentration camps and a pile of human bones.)

This is how these deportations began, and this is how they ended.

4. Off to the Eastern Front

In Spring 1942 Speidel was transferred to the Eastern Front. Week after week the nazi newsreels carried pictures of burning villages, the results of Speidel's work on the Eastern Front, but Speidel himself always tried to avoid the eye of the film camera. There exists only one short film of Speidel himself during this period: here he is with Marshal Kluge.

General Speidel (arrow) on the eastern front with Field Marshal Kluge

There is only this one film shot of him, but we have very precise information about his activities on Russian territory. In February 1950 the West German militarist magazine "Wehrkunde" (Military Science) reported:

"Speidel had an active share in decisions as Chief of General Staff of the Fifth Army Corps, later the Eighth Army. He experienced the heavy defensive fighting in Viasma, the Caucasus, the Don and the Kuban . . ."

Here are pictures from the sectors which Speidel's army marched through.

A whole film is not enough to tell how much death and destruction this Doctor Speidel brought to the Soviet Union.

Here are pictures which show how Speidel arranged the retreat of the defeated Eighth Army. One year earlier General Speidel had come to this country with one aim in view: to exterminate socialism. Now that he was being driven back by the armies of the Soviet Union he made all speed to burn the houses, to destroy the villages, and to demolish the cities and the factories.

This is what Nazi General Speidel did with "conventional weapons".

What would NATO General Speidel do today, with nuclear weapons?

He had served his Fuehrer for ten years: he had risen to the rank of Lieutenant General: Hitler himself had decorated him with the Knight's Cross to the Iron Cross. He could feel satisfied, he had made a quick career.

In 1934 he had started as a minor but useful agent who had swept a King and a Foreign Minister out of Hitler's path: then for years he had been indispensible to the military secret service of Hitler's Germany: in 1940 Hitler gave him military power over Occupied

Lucky Nato

"NATO- is lucky to have a new commander who has real front-line experience both on the eastern and western fronts"

West German Defence Minister Franz-Josef Strauss, January 23rd 1957

Speidel as Chief of Staff to Field Marshal Rommel, whom he betrayed to the Gestapo

France: in 1943 he had "made his decisions" in the east and left behind scorched earth.

Now we have reached the year 1944. When Lieutenant General Speidel found himself in serious trouble, he sacrificed another to save his skin.

5. The Stool-Pigeon Episode

The other man was Field Marshal Rommel. Rommel had made his name by commanding Speidel's campaign of conquest in North Africa. Goebbel's propaganda machine had made Rommel a popular idol in Germany.

In Spring 1944 Marshal Rommel was Commander-in-Chief of an Army Group on the Atlantic Wall in northern France. He knew what the true military situation was. He knew that the war was lost, and he attempted to leave the sinking ship in good time.

Rommel got into touch with a group of conspirators who wanted to get rid of Hitler, but he dallied and could not make up his mind whether to join the conspiracy.

In April 1944, General Speidel was assigned to Rommel's Army Group as Chief of Staff, and Rommel told Speidel what he was thinking.

After the war Speidel, in his book "The Invasion in 1944", described the atmosphere in Rommel's staff at that time:

"Nearly every day prominent persons arrived from Germany in order to express their opinions, and to seek a way out of a situation which was becoming ever more hopeless".

And in his book, Speidel gives the names of the most important conspirators in France:

"General von Stuelpnagel had made the most extensive preparations, both in theory and practice, for overthrowing Hitler. Field Marshal Guenter von Kluge, Commander-in-Chief in the West, approved in the main of Rommel's ideas".

These men, Rommel, Speidel, Stuelpnagel and Kluge were in the conspiracy, but still they did not act.

On July 20th 1944, Colonel Stauffenberg smuggled a bomb in a brief case into Hitler's conference chamber. The bomb exploded, several people were killed and wounded, but Hitler was unhurt.

A few weeks later he put his opponents on trial.

(The film shows scenes from the Berlin "People's Court" where the main conspirators were tried, and the place of execution in Ploetzensee Prison, Berlin.)

Those who were not hanged here were taken to Gestapo H. Q in Berlin, where Kaltenbrunner held sway. He ordered the Marshalls and Generals from the gruop of conspirators in France to report to him there. What happened to them?

On his way to Berlin, General Stuelpnagel tried to shoot himself. He was only blinded, but he was dragged blind before the "People's Court" and hanged.

Marshal Kluge cheated the Gestapo by taking poison on the way to Berlin.

And Rommel? He too was ordered to Berlin, and he too took poison on the way.

Hitler ordered a state funeral in order to conceal from the German people the real background to Rommel's death.

But one year later, a few months after the final collapse of nazi Germany, the world learned of the background, and of the role which Speidel had played in Rommel's death.

On September 8th 1945 the newspaper "Suedkurier" published in Konstanz, in West Germany, published a statement by Marshal Rommel's son, Manfred Rommel. The statement said:

"My father, Field Marshal Rommel, did not die a natural death at Herrlingen on October 14th 1944. On October 14th I had a short home leave. My father was in good health. Before 11 a.m. I went for a short walk with him. He told me that two Army Generals, General Maisel and General Burgsdorf, both from the Army Personnel Section, were coming to see him that day.

"At noon my father received the two Generals. About three-quarters of an hour later I met my father coming out of my mother's room. He told me that he had just said goodbye to my mother, and that Adolf Hitler had given him the choice of taking poison or being arraigned before the People's Court.

"My father chose to die by his own hand. During our conversation, my father told me that he was suspected of participation in the plot of July 20th 1944. His former Chief of Staff, Lieutenant General Speidel, who had been arrested a few weeks earlier, had stated that my father had played a leading part in the conspiracy of July 20th.

Manfred Rommel, son of the Field Marshal, who exposed Speidel's role as stool pigeon

"I hereby declare on oath, in the presence of witnesses, that my statement is true. Manfred Rommel."

General Hans Speidel made his statement to the Gestapo — and stayed alive.

6. *The Peak of his Career*

Today Hitler's Lieutenant General Speidel has become a four-star NATO General. He has reached the summit of his career as Commander in Chief, Allied Land Forces, Central Europe.

For the second time in his career Speidel has moved into Fontainebleau Palace near Paris. Here he worked out for Hitler the orders and decrees for governing Occupied France. Here today he works on the orders and decrees for the NATO Land Forces, Central Europe.

Speidel may look smart and gentlemanlike in his NATO general's uniform, but he remains what he has always been, one of the militarist props of German imperialism.

Name upon name, and title upon title from Hitler's armed forces reappears in the active service lists of the West German Wehrmacht.

There is, for instance, General Roettinger, Commander of the West German Army. Once in the past he built a tank army for Hitler, a tank army which rolled off to the east, but never reached its goal, and never returned.

Admiral Ruge, one of Hitler's admirals, now commands the West German navy. His slogan used to be: "The Baltic is the German deployment area against the Russians".

Today his slogan is only slightly different: "The Baltic is the NATO deployment area against the Russians."

General Kammhuber was one of the men who organised Hitler's Luftwaffe. He was one of Marshal Goering's inner circle. Today he is chief of the West German Luftwaffe, which he is equipping with jet-planes and rockets.

Messerschmitt, the plane constructor, designed the fighters and fighter-bombers for Hitler's blitz. Today, new planes planned by the same Messerschmitt are waiting to go into mass production. Tomorrow, the atom bombers over Europe may carry the old Messerschmitt trademark.

But Messerschmitt is only one of many. In the 1957 Handbook of West German Company Directors we find his name alongside the names of dozens of industrialists who supplied the guns, the U-boats, the bombs, the shells and the tanks for Hitler's war.

Krupp and the other Ruhr bosses have gone back into business. They survived the war and the post-war period. They have retained their factories and their skilled staffs, particularly their trusted managers.

Once in the past these industrial managers were presented to the German people. In the Sport Palast in Berlin in 1943, Nazi Armaments Minister Speer announced:

"Today we present to the public at least a few of these arms managers, some of whom are not well known. They are leading figures in industry, such as Rohland, who has greatly increased tank production; Frydag and Heyne, who have multiplied the production of aircraft parts and equipment; Geilenberg dictator of munitions production . . ."

Let us see what has happened to these men today. General Director Rohland, the man who "greatly increased tank production" is today co-owner of several steel works, and sits on seven boards of directors.

Frydag and Heyne, who "multiplied aircraft production" are today general directors of the big firms of Henschel and Telefunken.

Geilenberg, "dictator of munitions production" is today general director of the Salzgitter Machine Works, and sits on a number of boards of directors.

This listing of names could be continued indefinitely: and these men control, in the atomic age, the world's third largest arms potential.

And here are a few more samples:

In 1943, SS General Gille sentenced 50,000 German soldiers to death by ordering them to hold out in the hedgehog at Cherkassy. Hitler awarded him the "Diamonds and Oak Leaves to the Knight's Cross." Today SS General Gille is a bookseller: he sells SS literature.

In 1944 Marshal Kesselring ordered the burning of Italian villages and the shooting of thousands of hostages. For this he was sentenced to death, but later reprieved. Today he is Honorary President of the biggest militarist ex-soldiers' association in West Germany.

Speidel today as Nato Commander.
He commands British Troops in western Europe

It Runs in the Family

"Mr McCloy, the U. S. High Commissioner for Germany . . . announced on Jan. 31 that after a review of 101 sentences on German war criminals detained in the U. S. Zone, 33 prisoners had been granted a reduction of their sentences to 'time served' and would be released ... Those released included Lt.-General Wilhelm Speidel, formerly Military Governor of Greece, a brother of General Hans Speidel . . ."

Keesing's Contemporary Archives, March 17th 1951.

(Lieutenant General Wilhelm Speidel had been sentenced to 20 years for murdering thousands of Greek civilians.)

Toughest Fighters

"In Germany we are at last throwing our weight to the swift creation of a German Army, calling in some of the great German General Staff of World War II, and some of their toughest fighters to create a bulwark against the Communist threat."

New York Daily News, July 7th 1954

(cartoon by Herlul Bidstrup, "Land og Volk", Denmark)

In 1940 nazi Admiral Heye "defended" Germany by invading Denmark and Norway. Today he is a member of the West German Parliament and sits on the parliamentary committees for restitution, for atomic energy, for foreign affairs, and for defence.

Lieutenant General Heusinger was Chief of Operations on Hitler's Supreme Army Command. Today he is Inspector General of the West German Army.

Today these men are waiting to use atomic cannon.

They could use it to wipe out our lives: but we, all of us, have the power to wipe out this cannon and all it represents.

(The film ends on a note of optimism with pictures of some of the huge anti-atom demonstrations held recently in West Germany, with demonstrators carrying slogans such as "We Want an Atom-Free Zone", "Down with Strauss and Adenauer", and "No Rockets, No Atoms".)

But Speidel and the other old nazis named in this story are not the only ones. The West German Government, the West German Parliament, and West German industry are honeycombed with the men who put Hitler into power, fought his war of conquest, and brought death and destruction to Europe.

Regularly every fortnight, GERMAN REPORT brings you the latest news and comments on renazification and remilitarisation in West Germany; on the opposition to this policy by the people of West Germany; and on events in East Germany, the German Democratic Republic, where a clean break with the past has been made.

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